

The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, September 18. 1694.

Quest. 1. **I** Desire your Opinion in this short Question, Whether the Fall of Lucifer, and his Rebellious Crew, were not the occasion of the Creation of the World? And why he fell? In which you will much oblige your Humble Servant.

Ans. We see no Reason for such a suggestion; but very great ones to believe the Devil fell not till the World was created. The Occasion of his Fall does not (upon very strict Enquiry into all such places as intimate his Fall) appear to be Pride, or aspiring to be like God, which a great many Divines continually reason, as oft as they have occasion to speak of his Fall; but rather from our Saviour's words, *The Devil was a Liar from the beginning*, it seems very probable that his sin was lying to Eve, and contradicting the Veracity of God, who had said we should be mortal, (or die the Death, upon eating of the Forbidden Fruit.) Doubtless there was a great deal of malice at the bottom of the Temptation; and perhaps what occasion'd it in the Devil and his Associates, might be the great care and goodness that God began to shew to the new form'd Man, whose Extraction was so mean as the Dust of the Earth. Perhaps the Devil, whilst an Angel, might think Adam too honoured a Rival, and therefore did what he could to throw him out of the Almighty's Favour. But these Inquisitions are of more Curiosity than use, and may well be omitted, not only out of Prudence, being not properly our concern, but also for fear of being guilty of a Criminal Curiosity.

Quest. 2. A Gentlewoman having many Moulds on her Body and Face, without any occasion, they did all gush out & bleeding; I desire to know, if you can tell the cause of it?

Ans. Indeed, Sir, we cannot believe, nor do we know the Reason of it, if true.

Quest. 3. What power hath the Pope to dispose of Kingdoms?

Ans. Actually just as much as the Kingdoms will bestow upon him; for his Power consists only in the subjection and consent of such as willingly become his Vassals; Neither Reason or Religion allowing him any more than the Government of the Church.

Quest. 4. A Gentleman of six hundred a year courts me, whom I like; and one of three thousand a year, that is very unsuitable both in Age and Temper. The Qualities of the first please me, and the Estate of the last tempts my Friends. I beg your Advice what to do?

Ans. Ten Thousand a Year won't compensate for Grey Hairs and Ill Humour; Therefore you'd best live unmarried till you can get your Friends consent to the former; and in the mean time you are not happy, at least you'll avoid being miserable.

Quest. 5. What does a man affirm that says, There ought to be an East India Company, or there ought not to be an East India Company?

Ans. He affirms, That there ought to be an East India Company, or there ought not to be an East India Company.

Quest. 6. I pray you to resolve me: A Relation of mine hath a child, that without any applied cause, or provocation, every day after Dinner falls a crying; now it being Natural to all Humanity, that a Repast rather pacifies than aggravates a great many discomposures and turbulencies in us, from whence then doth this dissonant disposition proceed, and what

is the cause, that upon this child it hath such contrary Effects and Operations? and you will oblige, &c.

Ans. Perhaps (for in this case we dare advance no more) the mother of it us'd to be call'd to account for her miscarriages whilst a Girl, and always whipt after Dinner; a continued course of any troublesome Exercise after Dinner, would certainly contract such habit in the Passions, as would act powerfully enough upon so weak and tender a thing as a child in the Womb; we want not infinite Examples that are prodigious enough, which have been the Effect of the mothers imagination.

Quest. 7. I have lately had some dispute with a Quaker about the Principles of Christianity; in which he asserts, if we by Grace helping us, be not able to perform fully and perfectly the Righteousness of the Law, then were God unjust in commanding things impossible, and unmerciful in condemning the Servant for what he cannot avoid; but that, saith he, were Blasphemy to say: therefore, saith he, it must be concluded, that it is not impossible for a Justified Man, so by God's Grace, to perform the perfect fulfilling of the Law.

Ans. You may answer your Quaker thus: That under the Law the Priests were commanded to offer for their own sins, and the sins of the people; That under the Gospel now, the great and last Offering for sin has been made; we mean, our Saviour; we are commanded to pray, *Forgive us our Trespases*, &c. and the Scripture is express in several places in this matter, *that all have sinned*; that if we say, *we have no sin, we deceive our selves*. If it be said in other places, *Those that are born of God sin not*, this must not admit of such an Exposition as will not contradict other plain Scriptures, but such as will reconcile both; and even St. John himself, who was the Author of this Text, *Those that are born of God sin not*, does a little after explain himself, and distinguish betwixt such sins as are to Death, and such as are not unto Death. So that the whole meaning is thus much, That the best of men (for such are meant above) have so much Frailty and Corruption left unmortified, whilst they live here, as to keep 'em humble, and exercise their Graces; and there are so many Temptations to which they are liable, by all their Senses, such converse in the World; such Prejudices of Custom, Education, &c. that it's impossible for 'em not to sin. But these Persons sin not unto Death, or their sin is not imputed to 'em, who are truly sincere and upright, who when they find they have done amiss, repent, and strive against their Weaknesses for the future, their sincerity is accepted with God, and the Righteousness of Christ makes up in what they are deficient, and is imputed to 'em. So that they may be truly said to be without sin, and exactly fulfill the Law; but 'tis by Proxy, and not in their own persons. If this is not so, to what end did Christ die? If any live without sin, let 'em stand forth, and profess it openly, that their Actions may be thoroughly weighed, that so they may be justified, or found Liars; but if there never was, nor at present is any Person that did live without actual sin, notwithstanding the greatest concurrence of God's Grace, why then does any one plead against the Experience of six thousand Years, of the whole Race of mankind, against the express Revelation of sacred Writ; in short, against himself at the same time he speaks; for he that says, he sins not, lies (if we may believe St. John) and consequently sins in barely asserting it; how much more in living and justifying such a course of life?

Quest.

Quest. 8. Some Friends of mine were lately told by a cunning Woman (as they called her) many things that had happened to them, and many things they were then doing, and some things to come, as whether they should be Rich or Poor, have good or bad Fortune, &c. Now your Opinion is desired of this Woman and her Cunning (she being, as she pretended, deaf, and not capable of writing or reading) and also your Answer to the following Queries:

1. Whether it is lawful to enquire ones Fortune, or what is to come of any one?

2. Whether you believe any one on Earth can either by Astrology, Palmistry, or otherwise, foretel what will happen to any one?

Ans. 1. It's Idolatry, a very foolish and very wicked thing?

Ans. 2. There's nothing at all in the thing; all that pretend to give Judgment, as to the afore-mentioned things, and make a Living by it, are Fools, or Cheats, or both.

Quest. 9. Not to puzzle you with endless Questions, what I send you now, is of that importance, that you need only, after you have searched and considered the matter, send your Answer to the Secretaries Office at Whitehall, and I believe it will appear to you of the most immediate consequence, not to say, absolute, to be resolv'd; which is this: Qu. If the Clergy, properly so called, came not by their Girdle, Cirkingle, or Cord, by the Donatists?

Ans. Not to puzzle you with needless Introductions, you want to have your Crown shav'd, kept dark, and dieted till you come to your Senses; then go to School half a dozen Years, (if you think you can profit in so little a time) to learn Reason and Manners, and afterwards send to us again; we may, perhaps, be at better leisure, and see more necessity of sending your Question to the Secretaries Office at Whitehall.

Quest. 10. I desire you to tell me, as soon as your Occasions will permit, which is the best way of forming and polishing Hyberbolicall Concave and Convex Glasses?

Ans. We are none of us Glass-Grinders, and therefore understand not the polishing Work so well; but as to the forming, we know no better a way than a Semitryperbola turn about its Axis. The great use of such Glasses we see not; Parabolical Convex Glasses, if possible to make 'em, would be of infinite more use than any Glasses we have yet, or can expect of any other Form.

Quest. 11. Whether there may not be as much, if not more pleasure, in courting of a Woman than in enjoying her?

Ans. Expectation of any thing in this World is certainly greater pleasure than Fruition.

Quest. 12. What is the heaviest burthen the Earth bears?

Ans. Nothing at all: Suppose it possible to make St. Paul's so big as to bring one half of the World and set it up, the present Foundation, the Center of the Earth would be chang'd towards the Foundation of St. Paul's, and consequently the weight (which is only a Tendency to the Center, would lose the Tendency it now has.

THE 4th Volume of the Athenian Mercury is now publish'd; done up in Marble Paper, with a General Title, Preface and Index to it.

Advertisement.

THE Gentlemen's Journal for the War: being an Historical Account, and Geographical Description of ma-

ny strong Cities, Towns and Ports of Europe; with Authentick Draughts of the Fortifications of every place, engraven on Copper Plates; together with an Explication of the Terms of Art used in Fortification. Part 3d, containing Descriptions and Draughts of these Towns, Leige, Coni, Oudenarde and Philipsburgh. The 1st and 2d parts containing Descriptions and Draughts of Dunkirk, Maestricht and Huy, Mentz, Brest, with a Map of the Road and Coasts adjacent: The Island, City and Port of Cadix, Pignerol, Casal, Charleroy, Aeth, St. Malo, with a Chart of the Road and Coasts adjacent, Bell-Isle, a Description and Draught of the Cheif Town, and a Map of the Island, Newport, Ostend, Mons and Namur. Printed for A. Swall and T. Child, at the Unicorn at the West End of St. Paul's Church-yard.

THE Undertaker of this Paper is Remov'd from the Poultry, to the Raven in Jewen-Street, where you may have Money for any Library, or Parcel of Books; as also Entire Setts of Athenian Gazetts, or single Mercuries, to compleat Setts, and all other New Peices publisht from time to time. Where is also Sold Elixir Stomachium, or the great Cordial Elixir for the Stomach.

The Ready Money Adventurers

ARE desired to take notice, that the time being expired for Drawing the Tickets, and the Books being almost full, the Undertakers, as also the Receivers, and many of the greatest Adventurers, desire that it may be full, therefore it is deferred to the 25th of this Instant September, to compleat the Books, and make up the Tickets which is now in hand. The Tickets may be had of Mr. Harrison, at the Hen and Chickens in Cheap-side, Mr. Clements at the Seven Stars in Newgate-street, Mr. Abriscross without Ludgate, Mr. Hart at the Crown near Turnstile in Holborn, Mr. Prince over-against Red Lyon-Court in Drury-lane, Mr. Roberts at the Green Dragon near the New Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Hooton at the Golden Boy near Charing-Cross, Mr. Coleman over-against the King's Brewhouse by the Hermitage near St. Catharines, Mr. Amson at the Ring near Salisbury-Court in Fleetstreet, Gold-Smiths; At Mr. Lloyds Coffee-house in Lombardstreet, Mr. Brand at the Rain-bow Coffee-house, the Corner of St. Martins-lane, Charing-Cross, Mr. Sanders at the Carlisle Coffee-house in Kings-street near Guild-hall, Mr. Deardes at the Dial under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet, and at his Shop in Westminster-hall. It will be drawn at the Musick-Room in Charles-street, Covent-Garden.

The Sale of Sterling Plate,

Will certainly be Drawn on the 29th of this Instant September next, full or not full, in proportion to what is then full (the Books to be shut 6 days before) at the Musick-room in Charles-street, Covent-garden, beginning precisely at 8 of the clock in the Morning. Tickets may be had of Mr. Bowman at the Flower-de-Luce, near the New-Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Cole at the Anchor over-against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, Mr. Foden at the Golden-Falcon near Fetter-lane-end in Holborn, Mr. Burningham at the Black-Raven in Newgate-street, Mr. Layfeild at the White-horse in Lombard-street, Mr. Barham at Rateliff-Cross, Mr. de Cayne at Bishops-gate, Mr. Holloway at the Cup in Leaden-hall-street near Ald-gate, Mr. Sykamore at the Star on St. Margaret's-Hill in Southwark, Goldsmiths, Mr. Ward at the Mere-maid in Cheap-side, and at his Shop at Sturbridge-Fair, Mr. Millner in Popes-head-Alley near the Royal-Exchange, Mr. Brindley at the corner of Fetter-lane in Fleetstreet, Mr. Banes Merchant in the City of York, Mr. Smith next Bedford-gate in Charles-street, Covent-Garden.